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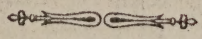

By

ROGER LEAVITT

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WHEN CEDAR FALLS WAS YOUNG

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ABOVE is pictured the first public school building in Cedar Falls, housing in its belfry the first tower bell to be brought into the state of Iowa. The building was of frame construction 16 by 20 feet, and was built by J. Livingston, grand-father of W. W. Livingston, 1305 West Third street. It was built in 1853 with money raised by popular subscription. There were just forty men, women and children living here at that time.

The historic tower bell was purchased in 1854 with funds raised by a festival dinner served by the ladies of the small settlement. It was bought from the Meneeley Foundry company, Watervliet, N. Y., which made the chimes for Teachers college campanile tower two years ago.

The school building stood at Fifth and Main streets, where a gasoline filling station now stands. The old bell now calls children to classes at the Humbert school, First and Pearl streets, where it was installed four years ago, after being salvaged from the ruins of the old Jefferson school building, razed when the new Lincoln school was built. It was placed in the Jefferson school in 1863, when that building displaced the pioneer structure shown above.

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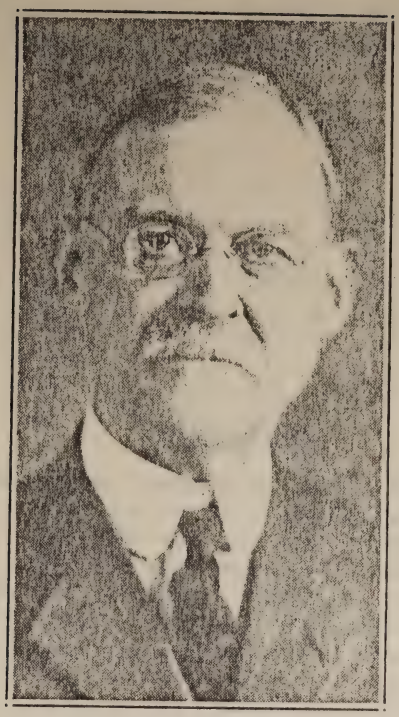

ROGER LEAVITT

PUBLISHER'S NOTE

Roger Leavitt, the author of this little history of Cedar Falls, is the son of Mr. and Mrs. John H. Leavitt, pioneers of Black Hawk county. For the past several years he has been interested in collecting information concerning early Cedar Falls and the people who lived here. His scrap books are bulging with interesting newspaper and magazine clippings, together with photographs and other material of an historic nature. By collating some of this material and by conferring with some of the city's oldest residents he has succeeded in compiling what readers of this booklet no doubt will concede to be an interesting history of early Cedar Falls.

Mr. Leavitt is a banker, formerly a member of the State Board of Education.

RECORD PRESS
Cedar Falls, Iowa.
Dec. 15, 1928.

Preface

THIS paper, covering the period 1845 to 1866, gives a few of the incidents occurring "when Cedar Falls was young." It was limited in length because it was given before members of the Cedar Falls Reading circle, which, two years ago, celebrated its fiftieth anniversary. Incidentally the club is said to be the oldest of its kind in Iowa. The facts presented in the paper aroused so much interest that it seemed wise to put them in permanent form. Very few of the people who personally knew these facts related are living. Pioneers do little writing, so it has been difficult to find out what really happened.

ROGER LEAVITT.

When Cedar Falls Was Young

I WISH I might have seen this part of Iowa, which means, "The Beautiful Land," before it was marred by the hand of man.

For many years, no one knows how long, the red man roamed over the open prairies and heavy timber, hunting and fishing on the banks of her many fast flowing streams, or lakes. But the Indians made no permanent settlements, and tilled but few acres.

The first white man to enter this part of Iowa, so far as known, was a hunter and trapper, who came in 1837. Gervais Paul Somaneix, a Frenchman, who built a cabin on the north bank of the river, not far from the present tourist park. He only remained a few months, when he left to seek better hunting grounds, but returned in the winter of 1848, and worked for the Overman's. He entered a claim and built a cabin on the bank of the bayou at Cedar City. He died in 1850, and was buried near his cabin.

The first permanent white settler was Wm. Sturgis who came in the spring of 1845, from Michigan and built a cabin near the present site of the ice house. Mr. Sturgis was a brother of the late Mrs. Hannah Miller, and uncle of Frank B. Miller. He built his cabin on the bank of the river, where prairie and timber met. All east of Clay Street was heavy timber and thick underbrush. All that remains of the thousands of beautiful native trees, are the few now standing in the City Park between Franklin and Clay Streets.

A few steps from his cabin door he could dip his bucket into the

clear swift stream of the Cedar, for the heavy sod, as yet untouched by the plow, prevented the soil from washing into the river and polluting its native purity.

Close at hand were trees fit for logs for house and barn, or for fuel. The early settler always looked for water and timber.

To the west lay a beautiful prairie, ready for the plow, rich with the rotting sod of thousands of years.

The rolling hills rose up and up, 'till they met the blue horizon. To the west and south the prairie stretched mile on mile, covered with waving grass, dotted with millions of wild flowers. As Herbert Quick said in Vandermark's Folly, " I shall never forget the sight. It was like a great green sea. It was sublime! Bird, flower, grass, cloud, wind and the immense expanse of sunny prairie. I sat looking at it with tears trickling from my eyes—from happiness in finding the newest, strangest, most delightful, sternest, most wonderful thing in the world—the Iowa prairie."

To the north of his cabin ran the Cedar, largest of Iowa's streams. It curved to the north as it washed against the high bluffs, and down stream curving to the south and east, as it hit the bluffs now called Cedar Heights. I do not wonder that the beauty of the spot appealed to him. When the last log had been lifted into place and the roof made of small trees flattened and covered with sod had been finished, and the stick and mud chimney completed, and the fire started in the wide throated fire place, and fish from the river, or venison from the prairie was sizzling in the pan, and he could sit down on his home made three legged stool with his family about him, and look out at the great red ball of the sun, setting behind the western hills, touching with

crimson the sparkling rapids of the river, one can imagine he said to his helpmate: "Wife, we have found the most beautiful spot in all the world for a home. Lets sing "Praise God from Whence all Blessings Flow."

That fall, Erasmus Adams and family came and built a cabin in the woods on Dry Run. Attracted no doubt by the springs at that point which from time immemorial have poured forth a never failing supply of pure cold water. Both Sturgis and Adams broke up small farms and Sturgis Falls was born. Later the name was changed to Cedar Falls. Just as it takes two points to make a straight line so it took two families to make a town. By late fall there were five families comprising fourteen people in Black Hawk county.

The town was laid out in 1853. The original plat extended from the river at Mill Square west to Olive Street and south to 6th Street. The first lot sold was the lot at 2nd and Main Streets, now occupied by Rich's Grocery store. This lot was sold for the staggering sum of $10.50. It was a long time before Main Street was anything but a trail thru the woods. When C. A. Rownd came in 1859, Main Street was still full of stumps and the road wound in and out as it tried to avoid them.

About where the Rock Island crosses Main Street was Cat-tail pond and just west of this pond, back of the oil station, in 1853, was built the first school house, a little frame building 16x20. Previously there had been a private school taught by Mrs. Jackson Taylor, in their cabin in the timber at a location on the west side of Main Street between 13th and 14th Streets approximately.

To the first settlers who were accustomed to fine school houses in the east, the little log cabin out in the woods with its wooden chimney,

plastered with clay to keep from burning, its fire place big enough to take in a stick of cord wood, where one roasted in front and froze in back, such a school house was rather primitive. I imagine the school room was used by the family for sleeping, for cooking, for eating, for a living room. The rifle hung on pegs driven into one of the logs, for Indians were a constant menace and deer and other game could be shot for a welcome addition to the family larder, so the rifle was as necessary as the hoe or plow.

On the shelf over the fire place were the pewter plates or stone chinaware brought in the covered wagon from the east. A few settlers brought a bureau, or a few articles of furniture from the old home, though the heavy lumber wagon drawn by oxen had little room for luxuries.

The new school house on the banks of Cat-tail pond, made of sawed boards with doors and windows with a smooth board floor, and plastered walls must have seemed like a palace—but it lacked one thing to make it a real school house —a bell in the tower. On Feb. 22, 1854, a festival was held to raise money to buy a bell. The bell was purchased of Meneeley, Watervliet, N. Y., whose grandson made the Campanile chimes at the college. It was shipped by train to Buffalo, thence by lake to Chicago, by train to Dubuque, by horse and wagon to Cedar Falls. It is said that it sounded so good to the settlers that they rang it almost all the first night after it was hung. It was the first tower bell in Iowa.

In this little school house was held the first court in Black Hawk county. The first church services were held there by the Methodists and the first Sunday School organized, whose superintendent was M. W. Sawyer, father of Mrs. T. B. Keene and Mrs. Grant Miller. As

the settlers heard the bell ring, the call to prayer, I imagine their thots turned back to their eastern homes, where cushioned pews and carpeted aisles and high carved pulpits gave dignity and a worshipful atmosphere to their churches.

I think more than one homesick settler's wife could hardly restrain her tears.

We who arrived on the scene when Cedar Falls was no longer young can hardly visualize the little village of a few log cabins in the woods. Instead of paved streets was a trail cut thru the timber, instead of cement side walks, sawdust and shavings were scattered along the east side of the trail now called Main street, but then a dusty or muddy country road, according to the weather, but always rough.

In 1853, the town was incorporated and a school district was formed. The population was 40 men, women and children.

There were nine buildings only, tho it had been eight years since the first permanent settler came, but two years later there were 450 people here.

The first hotel was the American House, which stood just south of Dahl's furniture store on the east side of Main street between 4th and 5th streets.

This later was enlarged and changed to the Monitor House, and finally occupied by the children of the Soldiers' Orphans Home. In 1853 the Winslow House was built on the west side of Main street, between 1st and 2nd streets. Later this was torn down and replaced with the Carter House. The Carter House was rebuilt into the Burr House, where for many years Jerry Burr and Dell Burr welcomed the traveler. They and their wives made it seem like a real home. After Jerry Burr's death the hotel was sold to a group of Cedar Falls citizens, who enlarged the building and christened it the Black Hawk hotel.

The old Winslow House in '53 did not have many luxuries but the beds were marvels of comfort to those who had ridden all day over rough so-called roads in a heavy lumbering stage coach.

This same eventful year of 1853, saw the starting of our first newspaper, The Cedar Falls Banner, which was later sold and moved to Waterloo and is now the Waterloo Evening Courier.*

In 1850, a young man from Ohio came here and bought several thousand acres, paying for them with land warrants with which the soldiers of the Mexican war had been paid. This man Samuel H. Rownd, had picked up these warrants at 40c to 50c on the dollar so these lands adjoining Cedar Falls from 18th street south, cost him about 50c or 60c an acre. He returned to his Ohio home, but moved here with his family in 1859, and this family has been a large factor in the history of the town for 69 years. When they came in 1859, the town had 1500 inhabitants. When the town was incorporated in 1853, it was made the county seat. It was the oldest and largest settlement in the county. However, no great granite structure with massive columns in front graced the county seat.

The first record book of Black Hawk county opened June 1, 1854,

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*Andreas' History of Iowa (1875) has this to say: "In the fall of 1858 William H. Hartman bought the office and after running it a few months moved it to Waterloo Jan. 1, 1859. It was really a continuation of the Cedar Falls Banner, which these parties had bought, and after running it some time, removed the office to Waterloo. It is, then, the oldest paper in that part of the state west of Dubuque."

After reading the second installment of "When Cedar Falls Was Young" in the Cedar Falls Daily Record, John C. Hartman, publisher of the Waterloo Courier and son of the late William H. Hartman, wrote Roger Leavitt, author of this history of Cedar Falls in part as follows:

"George D. Ingersoll was associated with my father for the first year, I believe, in the publication of the Courier. Neither of them had very much money. Evidently father might have dated the birth of the Courier from the time the first issue of the Banner came from the press, as Andreas says it was a continuation of the Cedar Falls Banner."

says, "Bought at Dubuque for 70c." The first entry was as follows: "Took room in A. Mullarky's house for use of county offices at $8.00 per month." This was just north of Jim Markussen's barber shop. The next entry on June 24: "Granted a petition of proprietors of village of Waterloo to have plat recorded." The county office in 2nd story, Mullarky's house was about 20 x 20, hardly 7 feet high. My father, who was a surveyor when he came to Waterloo in September, 1854, spent most of the first winter in the auditor's office copying the maps. In the next two years Waterloo and Cedar Falls each had quite a growth, tho Cedar Falls was still the largest town, and it was not till 1868, that Waterloo passed us in population.

Waterloo had one advantage—it was much nearer the center of the county. Agitation was begun to move the county seat to Waterloo, and as vigorously opposed by the people of Cedar Falls. The bitterness engendered by that fight has not yet disappeared.

An unorganized mob came up from Waterloo to take the records by force, but the men of Cedar Falls armed with ancient hen fruit fought off the invaders. Then they tried a new plan. Men from Waterloo succeeded on Jan. 19, 1855, in securing an act from the legislature, authorizing the legal voters of the county to vote on the location of the county seat. The act provided that if Waterloo received the most votes the county Judge could refund the cost of lots in Cedar Falls with interest. The election was held April 2, 1855. Cedar Falls received 260 votes, and Waterloo received 388, having the support of the central and east portions of the county.

There was much prestige in those days to the county seat, and it was a bitter pill to Cedar Falls when the records were transferred to a brick store building in West Waterloo.

However, when the county voted in 1856 as to the permanent location of the court house, Cedar Falls got even with West Waterloo by combining with the smaller East side and the new building was located and built on the river bank on the lower East side at 10th street.

Many years later when the late Emmons Johnson was a prominent candidate for congress, Cedar Falls and East Waterloo defeated him. The pioneers of this county were hard-headed forceful men. They came here, most of them in covered wagons, or on foot as my father came, without money, but with a determination to succeed.

They were men of deep feeling. It took many years to overcome the passions aroused by the county seat fight.

Twenty-five years or more ago, I gave a carefully prepared talk at a Commercial Club banquet on "Cedar Falls as a Residence City." I thot I was a fairly loyal citizen of Cedar Falls. Soon after I had finished my talk, Joseph Sartori asked permission to speak, and gave many interesting early day reminiscences, and getting warmed up as he recalled the exciting events of an earlier day, he came over to where I was sitting, shook his fist in my face and thundered: "And John H. Leavitt stole the county seat."

Notwithstanding, the loss of the county seat Cedar Falls continued to grow, and that same year i. e. 1855, a new addition was platted to the south of the original plat, extending from 6th to 8th streets, and from Main to Clay streets. For some unknown reason the blocks were 66 feet wider east and west than the blocks in the original plat, throwing out of line the extension of Washington and Clay streets. Later the city bought a strip off from the west side of these blocks, and vacated and sold the street, so the Methodist church stands on the original Washington street site.

In 1860, large fair grounds were laid out west of Franklin street. The entrance being at 6th and Franklin and for a number of years a live fair was maintained. The sports and amusements of the people were limited, so for quite a number of years the fair had a deep hold on the interest of our people.

When the Dubuque & Pacific Ry., later the Dubuque and Sioux City, now the Illinois Central, was heading this way, they expected to cross the river at Waterloo just above the Mullen avenue bridge. The Rock Island freight track on an embankment between the Iowa Dairy Separator Co., and the John Deere Tractor Co., uses the old Illinois Central grade. The road was graded to Cedar Falls on the west side following a line about half way between Cedar Heights drive and the old south road.

The railroad was so hard up that it did not have money to build the bridge at Waterloo. It was to receive many thousands of acres when it completed the hundred miles of track from Dubuque to Cedar Falls, on which it planned to raise money. It was forced to abandon the west side grade and go to Cedar Falls on the level, easily graded east side. When the rails reached Cedar Falls the railroad obtained the land which could be bonded or sold and had the Civil war not started the road would have gone to west at that time.

Had the road been built on the west side of the river, it would have entered Cedar Falls near 19th street. The depot grounds were at Main and 19th streets. The coming of the railroad gave a tremendous impulse to the town.

From June 30, '61 to Jan. 1, '63, 128 houses and 35 stores and warehouses were built. A large new addition was platted, called the Pacific Addition, with 590 lots covering much territory that has never been

built on north of 19th and east of Main street.

Twentieth street, in the original Pacific Addition was called Hickory street, and 21st, was called Oak street. State street was for many years called Water street and College street north of 12th, was Julia street.

In the summer of 1850, Andrew Mullarky opened a small general store on the north side of 1st street, near Main street, running back to the race. This was the first store in Cedar Falls. There were only 135 persons in the county, which at that time was attached to Buchanan county, for election and judicial purposes. In the spring of 1852, Black Hawk county was organized.

Among the early settlers one of the most important families was the Overman family. They came in Dec. 1847. They bought the Sturgis claim and water power. In 1848, they built a saw mill and in 1850 a grist mill.

Their first home was near the race. Their second home was at 3rd and Washington streets, where Clark's Dray Line office is now located. Their third and final home was on the beautiful grounds at the west end of 6th street. The place was landscaped. They built a house which they expected to use for a stable when they could build the hoped-for mansion. This is now the site of the nurses' home, and Sartori hospital occupies the site set apart for their future home.

They platted the original plat of Cedar Falls. They gave the City Park on 3rd street for a court house site.

They gave 40 acres to the Dubuque and Sioux City railway.

They built the large stone flour mill at the east end of 2nd street, the ruined, fire stained wall of which was recently torn down.

The flour milling business for many years our largest enterprise,

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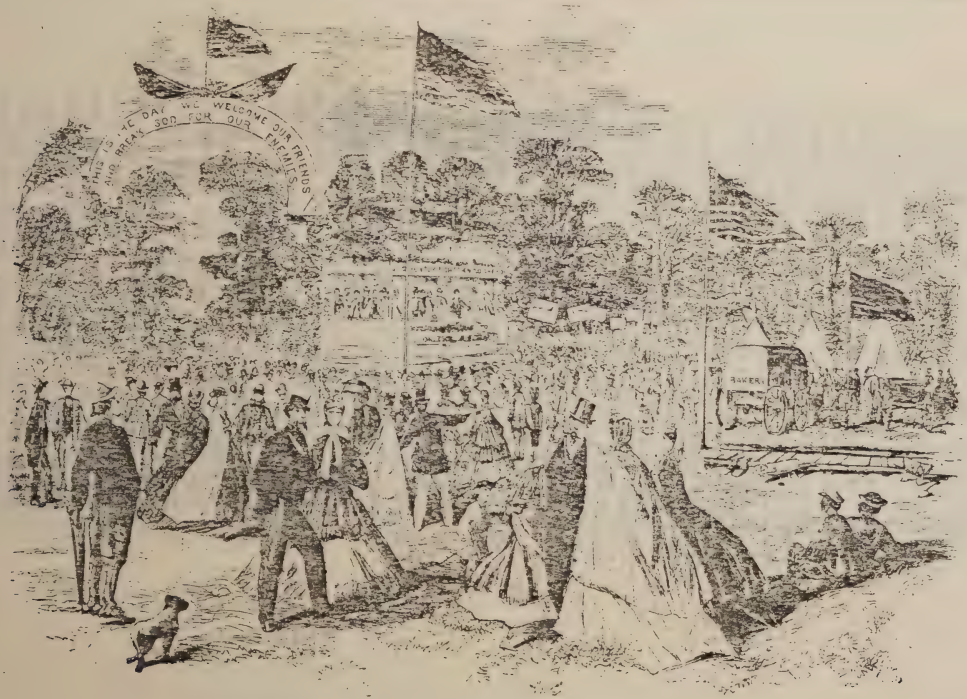

BREAKING GROUND FOR THE IOWA CENTRAL RAILROAD, AT CEDAR FALLS, IOWA, SEPT. 19.—FROM A SKETCH BY R. WILD.

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was a monument to their foresight and energy, attracting business for over 100 miles.

They gave $10,000 to the Iowa Central, a road running south from Cedar Falls, several miles of which were graded. Frank Leslie's Weekly, under the date of Oct. 12, 1865, gave the following account of the starting of this road: "One of the great works of the great west has just been inaugurated with imposing ceremonies at Cedar Falls, Iowa, on the 19th of September. The day was ushered in with the booming of cannon and the early awakening and gathering of the people, who poured in by the thousands to assist in the ceremony, conveyed in every conceivable article on wheels from the stylish carriage to the straw packed ox wagon, crowded with its freight of ruddy beauty. The procession itself numbered 103 teams and 1500 people, and extended for one mile. There were many banners as 'The Lakes and the Gulf Have Met.' 'The Strongest Ties Between the North and the South are the Iowa Central Ties.' 'The Roads That Pay—New York Central, Michigan Central, Iowa Central.' The ringing of bells, and firing of cannon ceased, and Peter Melendy announced that the great event of breaking ground on the Iowa Central was about to take place. The president of the road, Hon. David Morgan of Oskaloosa, threw the first shovelful. The festivities of the day closed by a ball in the evening at Overman Hall. The depot grounds where the road was started were at the east end of 22nd street, a few hundred feet east of the Great Western track. Alas for human hopes, the road was never built. The money spent on promotion and grading three or four miles was wasted. Some of the grading can still be seen as it parallels the Great Western grade a few miles south of Cedar Falls.

The early settlers were constant-

ly looking for great things to happen. They were willing to take great risks—otherwise they would not have been pioneers.

Among other families who bulked large in early day achievement were James and Henry Miller, the Wilsons, the Philpots, the Boehmlers, the Fords, the Streeters, a granddaughter, Bess Streeter Aldrich has made a name and fame for herself as a writer. Her latest book, "And a Lantern In Her Hand," tells quite a little about early Cedar Falls days.

Zimri Streeter, called "Old Black Hawk", was one of the most picturesque of our early settlers. During the Civil war, he was sent south to secure the votes of the Iowa soldiers. Before he could return Sherman cut all connections and started on his celebrated march to the sea. Mr. Streeter had to go along carrying the ballots on his back.

In 1856, Peter Melendy moved to Cedar Falls. For many years he served the community as no other citizen did. He spent time and money securing the Soldiers' Orphans Home for Cedar Falls. He did much valuable work in securing the Normal School. He helped organize many of our factories. No railroad came to town that he did not help bring it. He was largely instrumental in organizing the old Iowa Central into which he put much of his own money. A group of business men presented him with a gift of $600.00 and an album containing their pictures, inscribed as follows: "Presented by the citizens of Cedar Falls as a token of their esteem and appreciation of the energy, public spirit and disinterestedness of their friend and townsman the Hon. Peter Melendy, Cedar Falls, Iowa, November 28, 1866."

He was elected chairman of the republican state committee. During the war he was U. S. marshal for Iowa. Following the war, he was U. S. examiner for war claims in

Tennessee. He was mayor of Cedar Falls from 1895 to 1901.

After many disappointments Cedar Falls finally welcomed the Illinois Central road—as it is now called, March 31, 1861, just twenty days after reaching Waterloo. The conductor of the first train was Cy Hawley, the express messenger was Tim Kellog, both of whom I knew later. The engineer was Joe DeMotte.

It had been planned to build to Sioux City, but the Civil war starting stopped all railroad building and Cedar Falls remained the terminus for four years.

Farmers hauled wheat to this place for shipment from a long distance, as far as a hundred miles, and sold it sometimes for 50c a bushel.

I have heard Edward Townsend say that at nine o'clock at night, he had seen long lines of wagons at the elevators, waiting to unload the wheat, and the banks kept open till nine or ten o'clock at night to cash the tickets given by the elevators.

The Cedar Falls and Minnesota Ry. was incorporated in 1858 but did not start work till Dec. 1, '64. On March 13, '65, the first train left Waverly for Dubuque, just a month before the close of the Civil war.

When the Illinois Central started west from Cedar Falls in December, 1864, one incident occurred that had a lasting influence on the growth of the town. In fact the whole future of the town turned on a few hundred dollars. While the race bridge was being erected, it was necessary to shut the water from the race so the piers could be built. The owners of the water power and mills charged the railroad $300.00 a day while the water was shut off. This charge so incensed the officers of the road that they changed their plans to make Cedar Falls the end of the division, and to erect their shops here, and made Waterloo the

end of the division and location for shops. This was the natural place for the division as it is one hundred miles from Dubuque. It was an unfortunate decision for both town and railroad, but when anger rules judgment departs. Had the shops been located here this would have probably been the larger town.

Another important name among the early settlers was S. A. Bishop, who came in June, 1852. There were only six families then in Cedar Falls. He built a drugstore on the corner where the Citizens Savings Bank now stands. When he came, the woods from 5th to 7th streets were so thick with trees and bushes as to be impassable. Mrs. Jacob Boehmler and Mrs. F. D. Pierce are his daughters. He had shipped in for his drugstore a barrel of whiskey which was not up to standard. A man offered him in exchange for the whiskey, the lot now occupied by the Rock Island station. He accepted the offer and in five months sold the lot for $79.00.

In 1857, Wells Hand book said, "Cedar Falls is destined to become a large manufacturing place. An extensive woolen mill is in progress and other factories are projected. A four story brick hotel, costing $20,000 and handsome stores, shops, mills and other useful buildings are fast multiplying. It has over 1,000 people who support a racy newspaper."

In 1859, there were 240 children in the schools. The superintendent was paid $45.00 per month, and the total cost of a nine month term was $680.00.

In May, 1860, we broke into print in the Chicago Tribune which said, "In Cedar Falls, Iowa, 1500 population, there are only twelve or fifteen democrats. Had to import a postmaster from Dubuque. That was clearly before Geo. Hughes moved to town."

To the older members of the circle

the following items may be of interest:

June 30, '67, married W. C. Bryant and Vesta A. Bryant.

July 2, '67, J. J. Tollerton and bride returned from the east last Monday.

August 2, '67, A. G. Thompson and bride returned home last week.

Sept. 3, '67, married at the Presbyterian church, Clarence Knapp and Mary J. Neely.

Nov. 8, '67, married E. A. Snyder and Mary A. Cameron.

For many years these were among the leading citizens. Most of them have long since passed on. They lived well and served their generation with rare devotion.

Among other news items of 1867, I note the following: August 2. "The contract for the Episcopal church has been let to P. S. Robinson."

The new census shows Cedar Falls has a population of 3388 and Waterloo 3238.

Sept. 3, Dr. Bryant and Charley Wise are going to start a drug store.

Nov. 15, J. T. Knapp has completed his residence, corner Clay and 3rd streets and it will rank among the best residences in our large city. This is the house recently bought by the Woman's club.

Nov. 15, the audience room of the M. E. church, corner Washington and 7th streets, is now receiving its finishing touches. This building was torn down to make room for the First Baptist church.

July 31 '67, E. A. Snyder buys an interest in the Gazette.

Jan. 22, '68, N. Rodenbach has bought a grocery store.

August 19, '70, population 3603. When I came 18 years later it was about the same.

Nov. 18, '70, Henry Johnson opens grocery.

Sept. 20, '72, M. N. Dayton buys interest in flour mill.

Cedar Falls did its full share toward supporting the union in the

dark days of '61 to '65. She sent the first company from Black Hawk county, The Pioneer Grays. It was a sad and quiet crowd that witnessed the departure of these first troops. Many more were to go out before the war was over, some never to return.

Some twenty years ago Charles Boehmler told me the following incident: He came home on a furlough, and on starting back was given a gold watch to carry back to one of the officers of his company. Before he had a chance to deliver it after his return, he was captured by the Rebels. He had on when captured a pair of new boots, which his father had made for him. Before he was searched he cut a slit in the lining of his boot and slipped the watch in out of sight. As the boots were new he feared some poor barefooted rebel might take them away from him so he took a stick which was on fire and burned the boots so they looked as if they were on their last legs. His captors looking at the ghastly outside did not know that the leather lining was keeping them in shape. He went into Andersonville and came out after months of confinement with those same boots and delivered the gold watch so long and so well concealed. There were five Boehmler brothers in the Civil war. Two were in Andersonville. Jacob Boehmler, who enlisted three times before he was accepted, is the only one now living. Their father, a pioneer boot and shoe maker, had at one time twelve men working in the shop, which stood at 116 Main street, where Bishop's Paint store is located. This building was moved to the middle of the west side of Main street, between 3rd and 4th, and is now occupied by Fong Lee laundry on West 4th street.

The oldest house in town is a brick house concreted, on State street and 7th street. The next oldest is a brick house concreted on

Main street, between 8th and 9th streets.

After the Pioneer Grays left in 1861, the business men organized the Cedar Falls Reserves, with the following officers:

R. P. Speer, Captain.

Theo. Stemming, First Lieut.

Edward Townsend, Second Lieut.

When President Lincoln called for more troops in 1862, they enlisted as Co. B. 31st Iowa Infantry, and left for the camp in Dubuque Sept. 4, 1862, perched on the flat cars of a gravel train. Many of the members of this company were business men, who had to leave their stores and factories. Edwin Brown was mayor of Cedar Falls, and owner of a large flour mill. He took in Geo. B. Van Saun as partner so he could go to war.

Samuel Berry, merchant, turned the key in his tailor store. Geo. Perkins, left his newspaper, "The Cedar Falls Gazette." In later years, he became the distinguished editor of the Sioux City Journal and member of congress.

S. B. Humbert, one of the members, came here in '58, lived on a farm near Benson, served through the war, came to town, was druggist and postmaster, and a few years ago member of Iowa Battle Monuments commission. He and James Morrison of New Hartford are the only survivors of the 100 men who enlisted 66 years ago. Among the many battles in which they were engaged were Vicksburg, Arkansas Post, Lookout Mt., Missionary Ridge, Kensaw Mt., Atlanta, Savanah, Columbia, S. C. They took part in the grand review in Washington, May 25, 1865. As a picture of the sad days of the war, let me quote a few sentences from a letter writen by a member of Co. B. to his mother in the east, August 8, 1862, announcing his enlistment: "I have taken a very serious step in my life. I have enlisted and expect soon to

start for the war. I know that will be a great blow to you, but surely you would prefer to have me go as a volunteer than to be drafted. I could come to no other conclusion but that it was my duty to go. I know not what will be my fate. I had rather lose my life in defense of my country than live to see the downfall and disgrace of that country without having made an effort to save it. We are raising a company in this place and it is now nearly filled. And now, dear mother, goodbye. Let us all do our duty and may God defend the right."

The long cruel war finally came to an end. On April 9, 1865, the following handbill was issued here:

VICTORY!

Lee and his whole army captured.

Fling out your banners.

Bad luck to the man who is sober tonight.

Grand celebration this evening. No business today. Shout and be glad. Glory hallelujah! Turn out! Everybody and everything must turn out and celebrate. Speaking, Singing, Glorifying this afternoon, evening and forever more. Rally at Overman's Hall. The year of the Jubilee has come.

The closing of the war meant much to Iowa and Black Hawk county and Cedar Falls. Thousands of ex-soldiers came to Iowa to seek farms. Towns and country alike grew rapidly. Pioneer days for this section of Iowa were gone. The days of youth were past. The days of maturity were at hand.

Cedar Falls was forty-three years old when I came, so what I have written is hearsay and not from personal knowledge or experience. We who have inherited this fine community should not lose sight of the hardships, the dangers, the labors, the sufferings, of those noble pioneers who came when Cedar Falls was young, and did their part to make it a choice inheritance for us.